

November 29, 2020

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

ISAIAH 2:1-5, ISAIAH 7:14

Rev. George Fletcher

Ready or not, this is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin the journey to the manger in Bethlehem. But both experientially and Biblically, Advent journeys are not carefree and light. The Bible speaks of walking in darkness, spiritual barrenness, and a birth in a barn which is followed by the deaths of innocent children. In our own experience, we find that despair, loneliness, burnout, pain, and conflict accompany us as we go.

So where is hope in all of this? Don't the prophets talk about great things to come? Do we light the Prophecy Candle just in case there is joy and celebration at the end of the Advent journey?

What exactly is **Advent Hope**?

- I. Advent Hope is defined by the **CHARACTER** of **GOD**, and not by the **CONDITIONS** of our **LIVES**.

The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Psalm 147:11

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19

- II. Advent Hope rests on the **FOUNDATIONS** of the **PAST**, and not on **SPECULATIONS** about the **FUTURE**.

God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are His."

2 Timothy 2:19

"My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name."

The Solid Rock, v. 1

.....

What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

Love God, Love Others, Learn Jesus, DO SOMETHING!

Today's sermon can be found on our website beaverdambaptist.org